X·IO technologies
BETTER BY DESIGN

Storage Virtualization
The optimal VMware vSphere environment

What is iglu blaze?

X-IO's worry-free iglu blaze SAN storage uses the world's most reliable storage foundation, the Intelligent Storage Element, in order to provide an unrivaled balance of cost, risk, and performance. It provides operational simplicity and can be uniquely adapted to the world of Software Defined Storage at no additional cost.

This modular SAN solution leverages a distributed controller architecture that linearly adds consistent high performance and reliability, even at 100% capacity utilization. iglu blaze deeply integrates with a wide variety of operating systems and hypervisors and provides the industry's lowest total cost of ownership, backed by a standard 5-year warranty.

Highlights
Designed to minimize infrastructure costs while adding enterprise-class data services:

- ✔ Create a flexible and centralized shared storage pool
- ✔ Integration with VMware vSphere, snapshot technology, and hosted applications for 100% data integrity
- ✔ Enable advanced VMware features, such as VMotion, High Availability, and Distributed Resource Scheduler
- ✔ WAN-optimized replication reduces network bandwidth needs and associated costs
- ✔ Certified for VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager 5 and VMware vSphere 5 VAAI

VMware server virtualization technology is extremely beneficial to organizations across the globe, increasing efficiency and reducing storage costs. By enabling individual physical servers to host multiple application instances through hardware abstraction, solutions such as VMware vSphere consolidate server environments to optimize capacity utilization, reduce overhead, and streamline application development and testing, facilitating cost-effective disaster recovery (DR).

Many times performance issues can arise as a result of inadequate and rigid storage infrastructures. For example, VMware technology can distribute virtual servers dynamically across a pool of physical servers, but if data is held in silos of direct attached storage (DAS), users need to physically copy data to make it available at a new location. VMware Host-based Replication (HBR) functionality can address this but at an additional cost.

In addition, without shared storage or the VMware vSphere Storage Appliance (VSA), organizations cannot leverage such advanced VMware features as High Availability, VMotion, and Distributed Resource Scheduler. Furthermore, traditional backup methods strain server, network, and storage resources because of the increased application density on consolidated physical servers.

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SAN solutions that provide high-level data services can help but are typically very expensive. Very few SAN solutions are application-aware, and in most cases snapshots taken for DR are only crash-consistent, making recovery complicated, time-consuming, and potentially faulty.

All of these additional costs negate the cost savings of server virtualization. Only with consolidated, virtualized storage can organizations take full advantage of this agile environment.

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Optimal storage flexibility for VMware environments

X-IO data protection solutions enable service-oriented DR by providing the same elasticity on the storage side that VMware provides on the server side, improving functionality across heterogeneous storage platforms. X-IO iglu blaze is an enterprise-class storage virtualization solution that optimizes VMware deployments, turning internal disks into shareable storage. By offloading certain operations from the VMware server, including cloning, formatting, disk locking, and thinly provisioned disk space reclaim, this VAAI-certified solution accelerates disk operations for the highest levels of scalability and VM per cluster consolidation ratios.

An open architecture integrates with various operating systems and applications, ensuring 100% application-aware data protection on each virtual server. The X-IO Snapshot Director for VMware enhances VMware's own snapshot capabilities with the intelligence required to comprehend, communicate with, and capture application-specific data. Accurate, transaction-consistent snapshots are immediately usable in the event of an outage, without downtime or lengthy repair processes. The result is instant recovery and a near-immediate return to productivity. System- and application-specific agents also place applications in hot backup mode, minimizing backup time as well as network bandwidth and storage capacity.

The iglu blaze solution features WAN-optimized replication with patented ReplOptimize technology designed to minimize bandwidth needs during data transfer. Only unique data blocks are transferred, making WAN utilization rates significantly more efficient than most array-based replication solutions.

The bottom line: Storage reduces VMware complexity and infrastructure costs

Reducing costs is an ongoing IT challenge. IT managers implement VMware solutions to consolidate operations and reduce footprint, distribute resources in a more balanced manner, and improve utilization rates. This can reduce management costs, power consumption, and downtime while delivering high availability, flexibility, and data protection.

X-IO iglu blaze solutions for VMware were built to fully enable the virtual storage environment that VMware deployments need to function at peak performance and to dramatically lower total cost of ownership (TCO).

The X-IO NSS solution was designed to deliver such business benefits as fully protected, highly available data, fast return on investment (ROI), low cost, and ease of management, particularly in VMware environments. With storage virtualization technology, VMware deployments can deliver on all of the promises of server virtualization.

iglu blaze

✔ Ensures that all virtual machine and configuration data is fully protected in a VMware environment
✔ Raises data services to the enterprise level
✔ Minimizes replication bandwidth needs
✔ Delivers transaction-consistent snapshots that reduce downtime and speed up recovery